

NOTES ON BOOKS.

NEW EDITIONS—NEW EDITORS—AND NEWS ABOUT PRICES.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] LONDON, April 9.

A new edition of Defoe is announced by Messrs. Bicker, who desire, they assure us to make this edition as complete as possible, and appeal to the public for help. The desire is laudable, and the first response that ought to be made to it is a suggestion to these enterprising publishers that a complete edition of a classic cannot well be produced without an editor. No editor is named for this one; there is nothing to indicate that Messrs. Bicker consider an editor necessary. They have lately reprinted Swift without an editor; they reprinted Jesse's Selwyn without an editor; they did the same by Evelyn's Diary (with poor life) by Mr. H. B. Wheatley. They may plead, that in these cases they reprinted the work of previous editors, but the excuse is a lame one. No writer can be passed through the press without more editing than a proof-reader can do, and he should be paid for his services. I do not conceive it to be part of my duty either to assist an angry Bostonian in the conduct of his business, nor yet to advertise the London dealer. But I presume he subscribes to the trade organ in London called *The Bookseller*, and he will find in the number for April 5 a copy of Dickens (which seems to be the angry Bostonian's specialty), *edition deluxe*, 30 vols., advertised for £20, less than \$100. He will find another advertisement of the same book in still more significant terms. The owners (who are dealers) are eager to accept "any reasonable offer."

G. W. S.

books essentially speculative in character do, as we see, vary.

It is natural enough that American booksellers who hold heavy stocks at heavy prices of those English editions do such dislike having the face published that they do not keep up their commercial value in England. In the same journal is a letter from a Boston dealer, sadly deficient in literary which contact with literature was once thought to promote. He demands, in a tone which fills me with alarm, as if with pistol in hand, the address of my bookseller, or of anybody else who has these works on sale at reduced prices. If he will write for it privately, and if possible civilly, he shall have it, although I do not conceive it to be part of my duty either to assist an angry Bostonian in the conduct of his business, nor yet to advertise the London dealer. But I presume he subscribes to the trade organ in London called *The Bookseller*, and he will find in the number for April 5 a copy of Dickens (which seems to be the angry Bostonian's specialty), *edition deluxe*, 30 vols., advertised for £20, less than \$100. He will find another advertisement of the same book in still more significant terms. The owners (who are dealers) are eager to accept "any reasonable offer."

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